

congratulating Chief Tom Macklin, who is retiring after more than 30 years of service with the City of Delaware Fire Department.

Chief Macklin's work was summed up best recently by a colleague who said that his 30-year commitment to Delaware has been marked by professionalism, loyalty and devotion to duty. Under Tom's leadership, the department has grown with the City of Delaware to meet the community's emerging public safety needs.

Chief Macklin began his career with the city in 1975 as a fire fighter. He steadily progressed, earning the rank of lieutenant in 1986, captain in 1989 and chief in 1991.

The City of Delaware has grown and changed for the better during Tom's tenure. Under his leadership, the fire department has evolved to handle the public safety demands of a city with a population of over 30,000. He has also overseen increases in manpower and the opening of a second fire station in the city. Since he became chief in 1991, fire responses have almost tripled.

I am honored to have this opportunity to thank Tom for all his hard work, and I am glad to join his family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him a long and active retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NORMAN MINETA

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an article written by my good friend and colleague Les Francis that pays tribute to Norman Mineta, the longest serving Secretary of Transportation in U.S. history. Mr. Francis has rightly drawn attention to the bipartisan nature of Mr. Mineta's political style and his efforts to work across party lines to achieve common goals. I have known Les Francis for almost 20 years, dating from the early 1990s when we both ran the House Republican and Democratic congressional campaign committees. Les is not only a highly skilled and effective campaigner for the Democratic Party, he is also a man who is devoted to Congress as an institution and to our Nation. He learned those values and beliefs working for Secretary Mineta early in his career.

MINETA IS ABLE TO RISE WELL ABOVE POLITICAL AFFILIATION

[From the Mercury News, San Jose, CA]

(By Les Francis)

Tonight, when U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta leaves office, it will mark the end of one chapter in a remarkable career, and no doubt the advent of another.

Mineta's dedication to public service was forged by a searing childhood experience: In the spring of 1942, as a 10-year-old American boy of Japanese ancestry, Norm was hauled off and locked up in an American internment camp.

Thirty years later, while vacationing in the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone, the Minetas and Francis made a pilgrimage to nearby Heart Mountain, WY, and we visited the site where the Mineta family had been incarcerated. Norm told us of that experience, how it shaped his life, and how it led to his deeply held views on civil rights and civil liberties.

Once, as mayor of San Jose, Norm presided over a city council meeting where a crowd

protested an exhibit at San Jose's art museum that included one photograph protesting the Vietnam War, and which some thought to be in poor taste. The protesters wanted the offending item removed or the exhibit closed. After listening patiently and without emotion, Norm said, "I understand what you are saying, but it is that kind of thinking that got me and my family put in camp in 1942." His remark ended the debate. And I knew Norm was speaking from the very pit of his soul when he said it.

A Democrat, Mineta was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1974 largely because of two factors: the public's anger at President Ford's pardon of Richard Nixon after his role in Watergate hurt Republican candidates, and Norm's record as a non-partisan, pragmatic municipal leader, which appealed to many independent, "ticket splitter" voters.

Although his district was always competitive, based on party registration, Norm never received less than 60 percent of the vote in every subsequent re-election, and he was actively supported by Democrats and Republicans throughout his career in Congress.

Eventually, Mineta was appointed secretary of commerce by President Bill Clinton, thus becoming the first Asian-American to ever serve in a Cabinet position. After the bitterly contested presidential election of November 2000, when he learned that he was being considered for the top spot at the Department of Transportation in the incoming Bush administration, Norm pulled together a group of friends and advisers to discuss—and debate—the upsides and downsides of such an appointment.

As the conversation developed, I knew that the only thing that mattered was Norm's belief that, if the president asks for your help, unless it's a request for something illegal or immoral, the only answer is, "Yes, Mr. President."

That belief helps explain the relationship between Norm Mineta and George Bush, two individuals with profoundly different political ideologies. When they first met, on Jan. 2, 2001, the then president-elect wasted no time getting down to business by saying, "Dick [Cheney], Andy [Card] and my dad all tell me that you are the best man for the job."

As he recounted the conversation to me later that evening, Norm then reminded the president-elect that he had campaigned extensively on behalf of his opponent, Al Gore, throughout the fall. Norm wanted to know if Bush was troubled by that, to which the president-elect replied, "No, I know all about that, Norm, but you never made it personal."

The bond between the president and his secretary of transportation was assured in the terrible early hours of the Sept. 11 tragedy, when to prevent any further attacks Norm commanded the immediate and safe landing of thousands of commercial flights. In the days after Sept. 11, as a volunteer "utility infielder" of sorts, I had a ringside seat at the Transportation Department, from which I watched Norm, under enormous pressure, perform steadily and ably, leading the department in a way that quickly restored its operational and emotional balance.

Norm Mineta has served the president and his country well and honorably for the past 5½ years, and in so doing has validated the president's early and continued confidence in him.

Even so, Norm's tenure in the Bush administration has frustrated and angered some Democrats, who oppose any such collaboration. Those critics would be well-advised to contemplate what Norm wrote in his letter of resignation to President Bush, which became effective today:

"There is much talk these days about a lack of civility in our political discourse and of deep ideological and partisan divisions at every level of government, most especially here in Washington, D.C.—I like to think that you and I have demonstrated, even in a small way, that different political affiliations do not have to translate into opposing views on the value of public-policy issues and the nobility of public service."

Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for a job well done.

RON DELLUMS: COMEBACK "KID" IS 70

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate former Congressman and Mayor-Elect Ron Dellums as he makes a political comeback at age 70 in winning the mayoral election in the city of Oakland, California. I submit to the RECORD an article written by Dan Rasmussen from the June 20, 2006 edition of Roll Call Politics entitled "Dellums: Comeback 'Kid' is 70."

While this article references the effort mounted by 8000 people who signed a "Draft Ron Dellums" petition to convince him to run for mayor, it also highlights Mr. Dellums' stellar 27-year Congressional career. Ron Dellums' celebrity as a powerful representative has not waned as evidenced during a recent speech at a local celebration when the crowd spontaneously started chanting, "Run Ron, Run." Their actions spoke volumes of the sentiment felt by the group who voted Ron Dellums into office and back into the political arena.

Dellums, the first black elected to Congress from Northern California, has continued a perfect electoral streak: He has not lost an election since he first won a seat on the Berkeley City Council in 1967.

Ron Dellums has a plan to make Oakland, California the 21st Century Model City. He is committed to working with the citizens and local organizations to solve the city's problems as they transform Oakland into a great municipality. I am sure that much will be accomplished through his leadership.

I enter the article "Dellums: Comeback 'Kid' is 70" into the RECORD in recognition of Ron Dellums' strength, fortitude, longevity, and commitment to fairness and positive change. I congratulate Ron Dellums on his election to mayor of Oakland, California and wish him much success in the future.

[From Roll Call, June 20, 2006]

DELLUMS: COMEBACK 'KID' IS 70

(By Dan Rasmussen)

At 70 years old, Ron Dellums is making a political comeback. Seven years after he abruptly ended his 27-year Congressional career, Dellums, after almost two weeks of uncertainty, has won election as the new mayor of Oakland, Calif.

Oakland City Council President Ignacio De La Fuente, Dellums' closest opponent in the June 6 nonpartisan election, conceded defeat on Saturday. The announcement came after two tense weeks as the Alameda County Registrar of Voters finished counting paper ballots and found that Dellums had won the majority of the vote, avoiding a runoff by a mere 155 votes.